

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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FOR PGM/RC AND VOA WASHDC AND CINCPAC FOR PETTUS

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SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION - VICE PRESIDENT'S TRIP

BERITA BUANA, A JAKARTA DAILY WITH CLOSE TIES TO THE
INDONESIAN MILITARY, IN A MAY 2 EDITORIAL ENTITLED "THE
MEANING OF VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE'S TRIP," SAID "MR. MONDALE'S
MISSION INCLUDES AN ATTEMPT TO MEASURE THE FEELINGS AND
THINKING OF THE COUNTRIES HE IS VISITING AND TO EXPLAIN THE
EXACT NATURE OF U.S. POLICIES."

THE NEWSPAPER, NOTED THAT AMERICA IS "CRITICIZED" FOR
ITS PRESENCE IN ASIA, AND IS ALSO CRITICIZED, AS IN THE CASE
OF U.S. TROOP WITHDRAWALS FROM SOUTH KOREA, FOR LEAVING ASIA.
THE U.S. POSITION IS "STRANGE INDEED," SAYS BERITA BUANA, AND
THERE IS A LACK OF UNDERSTANDING THAT IS "DISADVANTAGEOUS
TO AMERICA ITSELF."

A COMPARATIVELY NEW DAILY, EMPAT LIMA, WITH TIES TO
ADAM MALIK, IN AN EDITORIAL ENTITLED, "U.S. POLICY IN EAST
ASIA." SAID BRZEZINSKI'S UPCOMING TRIP TO CHINA AND THE
MONDALE TOUR "INDICATE A CHANGE IN THE EMPHASIS OF CARTER'S
POLICY.

"UP TO NOW THERE HAVE BEEN ONLY SECOND-ECHELON STATE
DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS VISITING THIS AREA. AND SINCE THE END
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OF THE VIETNAM WAR THE UNITED STATES HAS GIVEN MORE ATTENTION
TO THE MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA. NOW PRESIDENT CARTER IS REVISING
THIS POLICY AND MORE ATTENTION IS BEING PAID TO EAST ASIA.
"IN VIEW OF THE INCREASING IDEOLOGICAL AND LEADERSHIP CON-
FLICTS BETWEEN THE SOVIET UNION AND THE CHINA, THE U.S. PRESENCE
IN THIS REGION IS BECOMING MORE IMPORTANT."
MEANWHILE THE INDEPENDENT DAILY KOMPAS MAY 3 CARRIED A TWO-

COLUMN NEWS STORY HEADED, "U.S. POLITICIANS SEE MONDALE VISIT TO SOUTHEAST ASIA AS IMPORTANT." THE STORY QUOTES INDONESIAN AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON D. ASHARI, FOLLOWING A DISCUSSION WITH MALIK, AS SAYING U.S. POLITICAL CIRCLES REGARD THE MONDALE VISIT AS IMPORTANT.

THE VISIT DEMONSTRATES THAT THE U.S. STILL REGARDS ASIAN AND ESPECIALLY ASEAN COUNTRIES AS IMPORTANT, ASHARI IS REPORTED AS SAYING. MOREOVER, HE ADDS THE U.S. WILL CONTINUE AID INDONESIA, PARTICULARLY THROUGH THE IGGI. THE DECLINE OF THE DOLLAR WILL NOT AFFECT U.S. ASSISTANCE TO INDONESIA, ASHARI SAYS.

"THE VALUE OF U.S. ASSISTANCE THIS YEAR IS LIKELY TO GO UP COMPARED TO LAST YEAR," KOMPAS REPORTED ASHARI AS SAYING, ADDING, "BUT HE REFUSED TO CITE EXACT FIGURES."

ALL MAJOR JAKARTA DAILIES GAVE NEWS ATTENTION TO MONDALE'S VISIT TO MANILA. KOMPAS MAY 3 ON ITS BACK PAGE CARRIED A STORY BASED ON AP AND AFP DISPATCHES DECLARING, "A COOL WELCOME FOR MONDALE IN MANILA."

THE ENGLISH-LANGUAGE INDONESIAN OBSERVER, OF THE NATIONALISTIC MERDEKA GROUP OF NEWSPAPERS, CARRIED A PAGE-ONE FIVE-COLUMN HEADLINE BASED ON AFP STORY ON MONDALE'S MANILA STATEMENT, "ASEAN HAS FULL SUPPORT OF AMERICA." BERITA BUANA CARRIED THE SAME STORY FOUR COLUMNS ON PAGE ONE.

MERDEKA ITSELF ON PAGE ONE MAY 3 CARRIED A TWO-COLUMN AFP AND ANTARA STORY, HEADED, "MONDALE TO MEET OPPOSITION IN MANILA." ANGKATAN BERSENJATA, THE ARMED FORCES NEWSPAPER, CARRIED A COM-UNCLASSIFIED

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BINED AP/ANTARA STORY ON PAGE SEVEN, HEADED, "MONDALE ARRIVES IN MANILA; TALKS ON ECONOMY AND MILITARY BASES ARE PRIORITIES."

THE GOI-OWNED NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY, ANTARA IN ITS MORNING NEWS SERVICE MAY 3 CARRIED AN 800-WORD STORY COMPILED FROM AFP, UPI AND REUTER, HEADED, "VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE ARRIVES IN MANILA." THE PRO-GOVERNMENT PAPER SUARA KARYA PUBLISHED A ONE-COLUMN PAGE 1 AP STORY QUOTING MONDALE'S STATEMENT UPON ARRIVAL IN MANILA, "THE U.S. WILL INTENSIFY CONSULATIONS WITH ASEAN." ENDUSINFO.

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